

it was noted very sparsely. My only previous record for the district is of singletons twice in my former garden at Blackheath on golden-rod flowers, both in 1952. Its seeming absence, hitherto, from wholly suitable habitats at Shooters Hill, almost adjacent to Woolwich Common and well-worked by me, is not easy to explain.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Tyria jacobaeae* L. (Lep.: Arctiidae), the Cinnabar moth larvae on colt's-foot**

Whilst working waste ground locally on 7th August 1990 I noticed larvae of the Cinnabar on colt's-foot (*Tussilago farfara*).

Having in previous years seen larvae on this foodplant, normally in close proximity to their normal pabulum, I thought little of it until I chanced upon a soil-tip some two meters high, sparsely vegetated with, at the top, a clump of grass and a few plants of colt's-foot attended by larvae of the Cinnabar. Although there were examples of grasses, *Polygonum* species and goosefoot, neither ragwort nor groundsel were present.

My curiosity aroused, I began to search other colt's-foot plants, well away from ragwort or groundsel, and found larvae commonly in this situation.

This record, along with those of Minnion, Wallace and Birkett (*Ent. Rec.* 92: 26, 144) lends support to the suggestion that colt's-foot is a natural alternative foodplant for the Cinnabar.— A.S. BOOT, 38 Balmoral Road, Colwick, Notts NG4 2GD.

A Convolvulus Hawk-moth in West Sussex

The night of 29th August 1990 was very humid, the temperature around 18°C with heavy rain and thunderstorms. At 23.45 hours a Convolvulus Hawk (*Agrius convolvuli* L.) flew into the house and settled on an oleander plant in the conservatory. This was my first example of this fine Hawk, despite many years of operating a light trap.— J.K. KNOTT, 9 The Brook, Southwater, West Sussex.

Two interesting Carabid captures (Col.) in S.E. London (W. Kent)

Single examples of the two following ground beetles, seldom recorded, occurred at my m.v. lamp recently, the first on the night of 15th July, the second on that of 3rd August, 1990. Both species seem new to the Greater London area.

Acupalpus brunnipes Sturm. — This species, which I had never previously taken, is a very local rarity recorded apparently only from Dorset (Studland and Bournemouth), Hants (Woolston and Hartley

Heath), a number of Surrey localities, and Herts — the source of the latter record I do not know. The habitat seems to be boggy places in sphagnum, but also damp sandy spots; in any case on acid and peaty soils. The nearest localities to London are Esher and Wimbledon — records of last century. The Charlton specimen, which should furnish a new Kent record for *A. brunnipes*, is fully identical with some I have from Studland (ex Harwood). I know of no likely locality in the area at the present time, and its provenance remains a mystery.

Badister anomalous Perris. — The specimen, fortunately a male, was determined from the aedeagus. The species was only in 1955 separated in our fauna from its close allies *B. peltatus* Panz. and *B. dilatatus* Chaud., and would seem to be still known definitely from only Dorset, Sussex and Kent. The present record is likely to be the first for West Kent and the metropolitan area. It is not known (to me at least) to which of our three species of the subgenus *Baudia* the old London record — “Notting Hill and Hammersmith Marshes” (Fowler, 1887, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 1: 30, under *B. peltatus*) — refers. The late Dr A.M. Massee and I took *B. anomalous* in some numbers, together with *Odacantha melanura* L., on the Pett Levels in E. Sussex (7.vi.53); I also found one male at Pond Lye near Cuckfield in the same vice-county on the 13th.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

CURRENT LITERATURE

Larvae of owlet moths (Noctuidae) - biology, morphology and classification, by O.I. Merzheevskaya. 419 pp 97 figs. Boards. E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1989. 115 Guilders.

This work was originally published in 1967, and the current English language edition is one of a series sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries in cooperation with the National Science Foundation in the USA.

Merzheevskaya deals in great detail with the larvae of 144 noctuids of economic importance found in Belorussia, and in doing so she draws upon and effectively complements Beck's *Die Larvalsystematik der Eulen*, published in 1960. Despite being restricted to Belorussia, the majority of the species considered range across northern Europe and into the United Kingdom although few are regarded as pest species here.

The book covers methodology, larval biology, external morphology of larvae — copiously illustrated with line drawings — eggs and oviposition, and systematic detail by subfamily. A valuable addition to the sparse literature on the larval morphology of the noctuidae. Paul Sokoloff

Entomology : A guide to information sources by Pamela Gilbert and Chris Hamilton. 259 pp. Boards. Mansell, 1989. £30.00

The first edition of this useful work was published in 1983 and reviewed in this journal (*Ent. Rec.* 96: 135-136). In essence this is a compendium of